The BAAC Page



In a Mellow Mood

by Dick Schiller

Our May meeting took us back to a favorite haunt for many, Moose Lodge. The arrangements for using this cozy facility were made by Lou Soper, our thanks to him. Moose Lodge is kind of a warm and fuzzy place with its performer-friendly stage that's low and close to the audience.

Sharon Walters started the evening off for 90-plus very lucky souls with her Fun Band, approximately 15 members strong, and showing how much fun a group can have. Nattily dressed in their great-looking vests, the group entertained us with: Mexico/Jalisco, Angelina Polka, Cossacks On Parade (also known as Meadowlands), New York-New York in honor of the 911 victims, and finished with Heartbreakin' Rock, reminiscent of the 50's. We are so fortunate to have Sharon helping us in so many ways musically, directing, arranging, and encouraging all of us who participate in the various musical groups.

Next came Joe Smiell with his BAAC Ensemble, but wait a minute! There was something wrong with this picture! For the first time that I know of, Joe was playing and Sharon was conducting! The first piece was a very powerful *Psalm 18* by B. Marcello (18th Century) and a very nice one indeed. Then Joe, back at the helm, gave one of his trademark introductions to one of the prettiest melodies I've ever heard, *Gavotte* by Haydn. Joe explained how the *Gavotte* came about in the 16 and 1700's and was the precursor of *Rhinelander*, *Schottische* and *Boarischer* styles of music. Where else could we go to school and really love learning from a master? The Ensemble finished off with

Too Fat Polka, known around the world as The Village Tavern. The featured of the evening brought Diane Hagen and Chuck Berger (from Portland) to the stage. Chuck was first, and performed his MIDI magic with Opus One, Muskrat Ramble, Unchained Melody, and the very beautiful Solitaire, complete with trumpets violins, choirs and lots of other sounds thrown in, (actually, very thoughtful arrangements). Then Diane joined Chuck for several fun duets. I say fun because it was very obvious that they both were enjoying themselves as well as entertaining us with their great talent. Somewhere My Love, Evergreen Polka, Xande, Mt. Rainier Laendler, and Swiss Mountain Climbers. Diane then regaled us with what I think we really hunger for, a classic accordion performance of Gay Ranchero, Dizzy Fingers, and a heart pounding rendition of Trieste Overture. Certainly, this is the way God meant for the accordion to be played. Diane showed off her championship form with sensitivity, technique and connection with the audience. We want More!! And finally Chuck and Diane had us tapping our feet with Hogenkust Schottische, Swedish Waltz, Beautiful Days, and a rousing finish with Clarinet Polka. Add to that a feast courtesy of the Benedettos, birthday cake for Mel Schwing from his wife (which did double duty for Clyde Forsman's 87th birthday), and the evening was complete, what more could we ask?

Next Meeting ...
Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m.
Moose Lodge
7535 Mission Street, Daly City



President's Message ...

Our meeting May 1 at Moose Lodge was exceptional, I thought. Not only did our Fun Band and BAAC Ensemble surprise everyone with the amount of progress both groups had made, but **Chuck Berger and Diane** Hagen from Portland brought the house down! I might add that Chuck and Diane were ideal houseguests and are welcome in our home anytime!

Don't be surprised by the date of this newsletter: The board decided at the last board meeting to date the newsletter according to the date of the coming month rather than the preceding month. So, don't look for a May 2002 newsletter--there won't be one!

We're working on checking out three different possible permanent venues for our meetings, all in San Francisco/Daly City. I'd like to have some of you look at the places too. If you would be willing to do that, please call me (510) 531-4836 or e-mail me at wtkacc@value.net. Meanwhile, the June meeting will take place at Moose Lodge Daly City. There will be no meeting in July because of the picnic.

Please let me know also if you would like to play on our "float" in the Columbus Day parade in San Francisco! The BAAC Fun Band (probably around 10 players) will be the nucleus, but we'd like to have 5 or 6 additional players. The truck will hold approx. 15 players. The selections will be simple, and most of us will be able to play them without music. In case we have more than 15 players, anyone wishing to "stroll" along with us in the street with a lightweight accordion is most welcome!

I was very distressed to hear that our intrepid videographer, **Ed Zaro**, has been in the hospital. We wish him a fast recovery. He is truly indispensable!

I'm sorry to have to miss the June meeting, featuring Valarie Morris' ensemble class, our famous Ed Massolo and Frank Panacci duo, and Lynn Ewing and Peter Di Bono in the first half, and the great Tony Lovello in the second half. John and I will be vacationing again at the Trapp Family complex in Vermont, where I'm hoping to have another wonderful, musical visit with Maria von Trapp, as we did the last time we were back there, in June of 2000. She is the third daughter from the first marriage of the Baron von Trapp and is the accordionist of the family. She is also a world

traveler, so I'll have my fingers crossed that she is in town and in good health when we are there!

Val

Word has it ...

... That **Ed Zaro** has been in the hospital and is now on the mend. What would we do without Ed and his video camera, faithfully recording every BAAC meeting since the very beginning!

... That **Tony Galla-Rini** is improving since his fall and operation. Well-wishes may be sent to: Maestro Anthony Galla-Rini; 500 East Valley Parkway, Apt. 203; Escondido, CA 92025-3006. Tony still plans to attend Las Vegas Convention June 23-26 and, of course, his own accordion camp July 21-26. 98 years old (young)—what a guy!

... That long-time BAAC member and ardent supporter Clyde Forsman has reached 87! He and Mel Schwing shared birthday honors at the May meeting, with "Happy Birthday" being played by none other than Vince Cirelli! All three of these gentlemen are indispensable players in the BAAC Fun Band.

... That Lou Soper's "MAP" program on May 11, featuring Stas Venglevski and John Simkus, brought in 90 very enthusiastic attendees for an exceptional program. Watch for announcement of the next program, featuring Henry Doktorski, near the end of July.

... That we would like **you** to send us news tidbits for this column!

Who Is Playing Where ...
Reno Di Bono and the Blue Moon Trio
Play for dancing every second Friday of each month
At Montavalle in Scotts Valley, CA
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Call Reno (408) 252-3808 for more info
Joe Domitrowich and the Alpiners USA
Will be playing June 16, July 21 and Aug. 18 (all
Sundays)
at Tyrolean Inn on highway 9 in Ben Lomond

at Tyrolean Inn on highway 9 in Ben Lomond. For reservations call (831) 336-5188

> BAAC meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Call Val for details (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@value.net



Sharon Walters and Bob Smith

Next Meeting ... Wednesday, June 5 at 7 p.m. Moose Lodge Daly City

... featuring, in the first segment, our own members: Valarie Morris' ensemble class, Called the "Mellow Bellows," will give us a sampling of what they have learned (and what a joy ensemble playing is!); Peter Di Bono and Lynn Ewing will play some great duet arrangements by Joe Smiell; and our club star duo Frank Panacci and Ed Massolo will wow us with their latest repertoire (and I know they have been working really hard on it).

Following intermission, for the rest of the evening, we have the special privilege to welcome the one and only -- *Tony Lovello!* You won't believe the energy this man has--he will leave you breathless! Tony's newest CD, *Tony Lovello and His Millennium orchestra*, will be available at the meeting, as will his tried-and-true older CD's, *Tony Lovello Then & Now*, and *Play It Again*, *Tony*.

The gate charge for this special performance will be \$5 across the board, and the difference will be given to Tony to help with his expenses in coming out here from the Midwest.

Welcome New Members ...
A hearty "welcome aboard" to new members
Judy Dale and Jane McDermott
We hope to see you often!

The BAAC Executive Board ...

...met on Tuesday, April 30. Our bank accounts totaled \$7,926.22. Through Dick Schiller we have found a new and enthusiastic formatter for our newsletter, Alicia Perrone in Walnut Creek, whom we will pay \$100 per month. BAAC will run a half-page ad in the Cotati Accordion Festival program for \$235. Frank Schlotter and Val will put together BAAC materials for display at the Las

Vegas Accordion Convention. The board voted to date the newsletter according to the coming month rather than the preceding month. The board is working on some possible changes in the By-Laws that the membership will be asked to vote on at the annual General Meeting in September.

For Sale ...

20-lb. La Melodiosa MIDI accordion
120 bass, 3 and 5 sets of new hand-made reeds
Has foot volume control and Roland RA90 sound
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Asking \$4,995.00 or best offer Lou Casalnuovo (650) 756-4670

Accordion Teacher Listings
San Francisco/North Peninsula

Peter Di Bono Theory/Technique/Performance (415) 753-1502

Lou Soper Every Tuesday 3:00-6:30 p.m. Moose Club, Colma/Daly City (510) 841-6745

Sharon Walters All levels (415) 621-8284

North Bay Steve Albini Marin/Sonoma Private (415) 897-4131

Bart Beninco Accordion and Piano Petaluma (707) 769-8744

Marjorie Konrad
Button Box, Piano Accordion
& Chromatic
Santa Rosa (707) 539-5308

East Bay
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Group & Private; Theory, Technique,
Composition; all levels/ages
(510) 222-8442

Lou Jacklich
Private Lessons; Technique,
Arranging & Chords
(510) 317-9510

Peninsula & South Bay

Lynn Ewing All levels/ages (650) 365-1700 Marian Kelly Lessons structured to your Individual need (650) 854-1896

Ron Borelli Theory, Technique, and Performance (650) 574-5707

Sacramento

Mike Zampiceni Beginner to advanced BA and MA in Music (916) 966-8384

Correspondence

Gary Dahl
Technique/Musicianship
Mel Bay Arranger/Author
Phone/FAX (253) 770-9492
www.accordions.com/garydahl

Come and join in ...

Bay Area Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month San Francisco For information call (510) 531-4836 Website: www.baaccordionclub.org

East Bay Accordion Circle

Meets the second Thursday of the month 1517 – 5th St., Berkeley. Bring your accordion! For information call (510) 548-2822

Accordion Club of the Redwoods

Meets 7:30 p.m. the third Monday of the month Hermann Sons Hall, 860 Western, Petaluma For information call Harry (707) 838-2859

Golden State Accordion Club

Meets 7 PM the second Tuesday of the month At Pietro's #2, 679 Merchant St. in Vacavile For information call (707) 864-2359

Good Time Accordion Club

Meets 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of the month Community Center, 1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon For information call (209) 545-3603

South Bay Accordion Jam

Meets 2:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month Seventh Day Adventist Church 5265 Carter Ave., near Camden & Kooser

BAAC Ensemble Practice

Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City For information call Frank (650) 574-4757

BAAC "Fun Band" Practice

Third Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m. Moose Lodge, 7535 Mission St., Colma/Daly City For information call Frank (510) 339-1163

Coming Events

Famous French jazz accordionist Richard Galliano
Saturday, June 1, Herbst Theater in San Francisco
For info call the box office at (415) 392-4400
Monday, June 3, 7:00 p.m.
Kuumbwa Jazz Center, 320-2 Cedar Street, Santa Cruz
For info call (831) 427-2227

Sunday, June 2

South Bay Accordion Jam workshop by Jim Hillman on chord voicings and chord progressions including Roberto Rosa

Wednesday, June 5

Tony Lovello comes to BAAC!

Sunday, June 16 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Day of the Accordion Music Festival
The Cannery, 2801 Leavenworth, San Francisco
(415) 771-3112

June 18-22

Ninth Annual Leavenworth International Accordion Celebration Leavenworth, Washington "The Bavarian Village" Call (509) 548-5807 or call Val (510) 531-4836 and ask for flyer

June 23-26

Las Vegas International Accordion Convention
Plaza hotel, Las Vegas, NV
For info e-mail lasvegas@accordioninfo.com
www.accordioninfo.com, or call (801) 486-1695

There's still time to register!!

June 23-27

Rose City Accordion Club Accordion Camp at Silver Falls, Oregon Call (503) 452-4517 or call Val (510) 531-4836 and ask for flyer

Saturday, July 6

BAAC Annual Picnic From 10:00 a.m. on, Nature Friends Park, Oakland

July 10-14

American Accordionists' Association Charles Magnante Tribute Festival Holiday Inn Minneapolis West Call (201) 991-2233 or FAX (201) 991-1944

July 8-14

Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships Phone/FAX 1888-4 KIOTAC

July 13-20

Joe Smiell's beginning button box camp Heidelmann Lodge at Norden/Soda Springs For info call Joe Smiell (510) 832-6938

July 21-26

Galla-Rini Accordion Music Camp, San Diego, CA For info call Val (510) 531-4836; wtkacc@value.net

August 24 and 25

Cotati Accordion Festival For info call (707) 664-8444

The BAAC Executive Board ...

...met on Tuesday, April 30. Our bank accounts totaled \$7,926.22. Through Dick Schiller we have found a new and enthusiastic formatter for our newsletter, Alicia Perrone in Walnut Creek, whom we will pay \$100 per month. BAAC will run a half-page ad in the Cotati Accordion Festival program for \$235. Frank Schlotter and Val will put together BAAC materials for display at the Las Vegas Accordion Convention. The board voted to date the newsletter according to the coming month rather than the preceding month. The board is working on some possible changes in the By-Laws that the membership will be asked to vote on at the annual General Meeting in September.



Lee Woodall
and
Mel Schwing
and
birthday cake

Scholarships Available ...

... Ask Val for an application. Teachers, have you qualified students apply for a scholarship. What better way to build enthusiasm and encourage them to improve their playing! Donations to the Scholarship Fund are welcome anytime.

Late word ...

Our great f riends and supporters Lee and Walt Woodall are going through some tough times right now. Walt had some surgery and Lee is caring for him, so if we miss them at a meeting where we normally expect to see either or both of them, that is the reason. We wish Walt a swift and complete recovery.



Concertina



Don't forget!
TONY LOVELLO AT BAAC
Wednesday, June 5

Photos from May Meeting ...



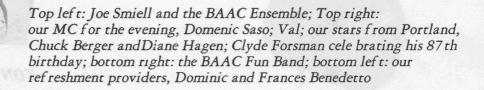












BAAC Annual Picnic Coming Up July 6!

All the information is in the flyer! Frances and Dominic Benedetto are handling all the food and logistical details of the picnic. Entertainment, being organized by Bob Berta, will be superb. Please send your check for \$12 per person and an S.A.S.E. (stamped, self-addressed envelope) to Dominic and Frances Benedetto, 2604 Brewster Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94062, and they will send you your tickets. Or, purchase your tickets at the June 5 meeting!

Please note that there will be a "swap corner" at the picnic for those who have something they wish to sell. Please contact Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@value.net if you would like to participate in the "Swap Corner"! Deadline for your reservation is Monday, July 1! Don't miss this, our best picnic ever!

Famed French Jazz Accordionist Richard Galliano ...

...will be performing in the Bay Area in early June! Details: Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco Saturday, June 1 at 8:00 p.m. Call the Box Office at (415) 392-4400 to reserve tickets, which will range from \$18 to \$30. Or, if you're in the South Bay, Richard Galliano will be performing Monday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Kuumbwa Jazz Center, 320-2 Cedar Street, Santa Cruz. Tickets ordered in advance are \$18; price at the door is \$20 (half price for KJC members).

Richard Galliano, 51, acclaimed composer and arranger, is considered a master of the instrument, an heir to the throne of the late, great Astor Piazzolla. His influences and sound cover the gamut of American jazz, French musette, Argentinean tango and Brazilian samba. This will be a truly exciting program.

Special event at the South Bay Accordion Jam Sunday, June 2!

Norma Parsons has informed me that Jim Hillman will be giving a workshop on chord voicings and chord progressions at the SBAJ June 2 meeting. Also, Roberto Rosa is returning from Puerto Rico and will be helping in the demonstrations. There will be a question-and-answer session at the end. The SBAJ meets on the first Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 5265 Carter Ave., near Camden and Kooser in San Jose.

The Las Vegas International Accordion Convention June 23-26

Although well over 300 people have signed up so far, from North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand ... incredibly, space is still available! Get to know Myron Floren, Dick Contino, Peter Soave, Art Van Damme, Frank Marocco, and yes, we hope, Tony Galla-Rini!

These stars and many others will be there. Will you? Hurry! Registration closes June 17

E-mail <u>paul@accordioninfo.com</u>; phone the Hotline 1-800-472-1695

For room reservations at the Plaza Hotel call the Plaza at 1-800-634-6575 and ask for the special rate for the accordion convention

The First Major Accordion Performers (MAP) Program a Success!

Stas Venglevski and John Simkus put on a flawless and captivating program May 10, enjoyed by a crowd of about 90 people. They played many of Stas' original compositions as well as a wide variety of music from classical to jazz, some solos and some as a duo. They received a standing ovation and requests for encores, autographed countless CD's and graciously posed for pictures.

The next MAP performer will be Henry Doktorski in late July. Watch for details. Meanwhile, for further information on upcoming MAP concerts, call Lou Soper (510) 841-6745 or e-mail him at louhsoper@aol.com.

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BAAC Membership List Available ...

... for \$1. Please respect that it is not to be used for commercial purposes! The list will be available at meetings.

BAAC Advertising Policy

A member may place one four-line ad for one month free of charge; after that the charge is \$5.00 per issue. The charge for a business-card-size ad is \$5.00 per issue or \$50.00 per year; for a quarter-page ad, \$10.00 per issue; for a half-page ad, \$20.00 per issue; and for a full-page ad, \$35.00 per issue. The cost for ads placed by non-members is twice the above quoted prices.

Fact or (delightful) Fantasy? By Dick Schiller

When I think of accordions and Italian restaurants in San Francisco, what comes to mind is the North Beach area....right? I'll always have fond memories of the 50's with the accordion factories, Colombo & Sons, Guerrini, Caesar Pezzolo, Corino's Music Studio among others along with great restaurants like Gold Spike, Green Valley, and Montclair. Great Italian style food, plenty of it, and at reasonable prices. The "Beach" with its wonderful mystique, too little appreciated I'm sure, was soon to drift away, and change over the years, never to return to the magic we once knew. Now, the accordions are gone, with only a handful of the restaurants surviving, but I'm sure it's not the same.

So, it was to my great surprise and delight to discover a contemporary restaurant, Buca di Beppo, that brings back to life not only the wonderful atmosphere of the good ole days in the "Beach," but better than I had ever remembered. So, what's so special about this place to rate a mention in our newsletter? Well, it gave me a feeling of an old Italian speakeasy, (not that I was ever in one, mind you) with its narrow corridors, rickety stairway to the basement dining area with its funky rooms adorned with artifacts, photos and memorabilia flooding the walls. You can even dine in the "Pope's Room" with the grand old man's bust in the center of the table staring at you! Party...or confess, it's your choice! But, this place also honors a local accordion artist of years gone by, who left her mark not only on the San Francisco accordion scene, but on the world! So walk through the entry, and be prepared for a trip back in time, and to be impressed by an accordion display highlighting this most unusual person and her story, Diane Dipola.

Diane Dipola 1918-1953
A jewel in the crown of Bay Area entertainers, young Diane Dipola made musical magic first as an organ grinder, but took up the accordion in protest of the way her colleagues treated their monkeys. In just two years this graciously proportioned brunette went

from busker to "Belle of the Embarcadero" playing regularly on the radio and at night clubs, banquet halls, and – every Friday night – Buca di Beppo, where she performed Italian folk songs, polka standards, and Latin – themed favorites under an exclusive contract.

Twice honored in 1944, first by becoming president of the San Francisco Accordion Club, and then with an invitation from the President of the United States! Having heard Diane play on the campaign trail, Franklin Delano Roosevelt summoned her to Yalta, where she performed for Churchill and Stalin. As General Marshall reported, even the Russian Bear teared up when she launched into a sentimental version of the "Volga Boat Song". The darling of the diplomatic corps - and a new favorite with servicemen - Diane couldn't resist when the USO came calling, and was soon off to the South Pacific where. during the waning days of World War II, she opened for acts including Bob Hope and Danny Kaye. Upon her triumphant return to San Francisco, the new internationally known accordionist resumed her exclusive engagement at Buca di Beppo. Among her devotees: General Marshall, John Foster Dulles and Vivian Vance.

When the Korean Conflict broke out,

Diane



returned to the USO circuit, this time as a headliner. Local veterans recall that no one loved her more than the hometown boys and the Italian American Brigade – but when the tragedy of war struck, not even they could protect her.

Three days before her scheduled return to San Francisco, a winch snapped and Dick Contino's steamer trunk fell on Diane, throwing her into the path of an MP and his guard dog. The startled animal attacked, and by the time soldiers pulled it off her, Miss Dipola had sustained a head injury and severe bite wounds. At the behest of General Marshall - who rushed to her bedside the comatose entertainer was flown to a Tokyo military hospital. Seventeen months later, despite round - the - clock sulfa treatments and the prayers of a nation, Diane Dipola succumbed to infection.

During the course of her hospitalization, visitors reported that Diane's wrists flexed occasionally and her fingers often moved as though she were trying to play the accordion. One nurse – a pianist – swore she saw Diane tap out "Lady of Spain". It was either that or the "Tarantella."

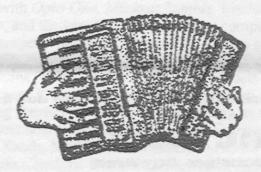


Chris Gravel of Buca di Beppo

So, what do you think? Do you remember this icon from our rich accordion history that we enjoy in this wonderful town? Maybe we should ask the experts, Vince Cirelli, Joe Smiell, Rino Pucci and others who lived through this incredible era! After all, Diane was the president of our San Francisco Accordion Club....it says right here!

At any rate, Buca di Beppo owner Chris Gravel, welcomes all accordion members to come enjoy his wonderful Southern Italian family style cooking, and be prepared for a meal to remember. Tell him you're from the San Francisco Accordion Club, and that you knew Diane...that surely will get you special treatment!

Buca di Beppo, 855 Howard St. (between 4th&5th), San Francisco 415-543-POPE



Late Events News Flash!

The Annual Picnic of the Golden
State Accordion Club

Saturday, June 15 11:00 -- 4:00 Pena Adobe Park, Vacaville Call Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359

The Annual Picnic of the **Accordion Club of the Redwoods**

Saturday, July 20 10:00 -- 5:00 Penngrove Community Park, Penngrove Call John Pordon (707) 935-7334



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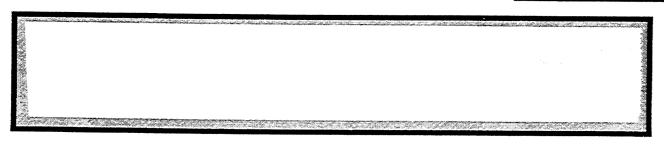
Meets the First Weds. of the Month @7:00 PM. Come see & hear us for a good



NEW LOCATION! 449 - 23RD STREET

OAKLAND, CA 94612 (510) 268-4084

smythek@ix.netcom.com



(Submissions to BAAC PAGE are due 2 weeks after the 1st Wednesday of the month)

BAAC PAGE

San Francisco Bay Area Accordion Club PO Box 318175 San Francisco, CA 94131-8175 WWW.BAACcordionclub.org



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

